

H2S Exposure in RLOP



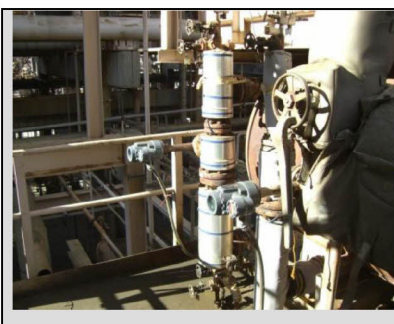
IMPACT ERM #: 30759

Location:
RLOP C-1910

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Level transmitter where H2S leak was later located.



V-1910 level transmitters

Tenets of Operations Violated: - Preferred Location

- 1) Always operate within design or environmental limits
- 4) Always follow safe work practices and procedures
- 8) Always address abnormal conditions

Incident Description:

On February 1, 2012, two individuals were conducting an inspection around the recently installed C-1910 column in RLOP. While conducting the inspection, one of the individual's personal H2S monitors briefly alarmed. Rather than leaving the area immediately, the inspection continued for approximately 15 more minutes. After the inspection was completed, Operations was informed that the H2S monitor had activated. A gasket failure of a level transmitter at V-1910 had produced an H2S leak in the area.

Investigation Findings:

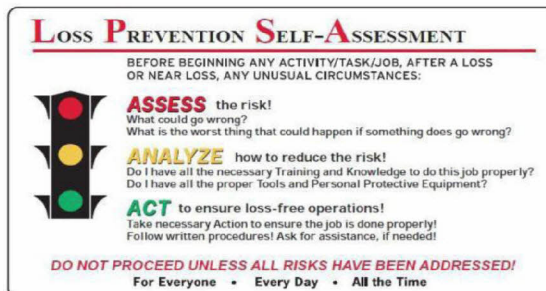
- 1) Based on past experience with H2S, employees believed there was no danger to remain in the process area after the alarm of the H2S monitor had been triggered.
- 2) One employee was not wearing a H2S monitor, which is an acceptable refinery practice as long as that person is escorted by someone who is wearing a H2S monitor. This practice aligns with the Richmond Refinery H2S training.
- 3) A gasket leak was found on a level transmitter in the general area (V-1910), causing a H2S leak and odor.

Lessons Learned / Business Practices:

- 1) Always evacuate the work area if your personal H2S monitor alarms.
- 2) Notify your supervisor and Operations immediately if your personal H2S monitor alarms.
- 3) Chevron Safety can assist with obtaining H2S ppm levels from an H2S exposed personal monitor. If Chevron Safety is not available, then the Chevron Fire Department can assist with this activity.
- 4) Always bump test your H2S monitor after it has been exposed and alarmed.

Recommendations:

- 1) Review Chevron H2S training within RI-481 to reinforce guidance on H2S safety with employees.



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